

June 25, 1961

Dr. Hiden Cox
Executive Director
American Institute of Biological Sciences
2000 P Street, N.W.
Washington 6, D.C.

Dear Dr. Cox:

I can see no virtue in the IBP. We are all concerned with the problems you list. However, "population, food and living standards" require political, not scientific advances, and I can see no advantage in "marshalling" our approach. To the contrary, this may tempt the politicians to harmful control of the "luxury" of individually motivated research.

On the whole, the IBP seems a cynical effort to mimic the IGY to attract public attention. This may be desirable, but not at the expense of undermining support for science for its own sake.

A futile and supererogatory effort to generate an aura of international cooperation is likely to backfire. There are many important possibilities of international action, especially in communication and documentation of unorganized research, and I would give these the attention they urgently need.

Yours sincerely,

Joshua Lederberg
Professor of Genetics